

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY IO/IBC/SC:JDFOX:MFW

APPROVED BY IO - CWMAYNES

IO - GADALLEY

/E - DHCOHN

IO/IBC - RVHENNES

EUR/WE - JFDOBBINS

P - GMOOSE

S/S - JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161214

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AORG, EGEN, FR

SUBJECT: UN RESTRUCTURING: FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR UNDER  
SECRETARY GENERAL

REFS: (A) GENEVA 5461; (B) PARIS 19886; (C) STATE 154450

FOR AMBASSADOR WELLS

1. THE FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE FOR YOUR PLANNED MEETING  
JULY 13 WITH JEAN RENE RIPERT, THE FRENCH CANDIDATE TO RE-  
PLACE VAN LAETHEM AS UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC  
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AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS (REFTEL A). WE NOTE THAT PARIS HAS SENT  
REQUESTED BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RIPERT (REFTEL B).

2. THE MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY OF JUNE 21 CITED IN  
PARA. 2 OF REFTEL A NEVER REACHED THE SECRETARY AND HAS  
BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. WHILE THE SECRETARY WAS IN PARIS  
FOR THE OECD MINISTERIAL SESSION, FRENCH AMBASSADOR

KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY HABIB JUNE 24 AND INFORMED HIM OF FRENCH PLANS TO PROPOSE REPLACING VAN LAETHEM BY RIPERT IN AN EFFORT TO DEFUSE LDC PRESSURE FOR CREATING THE NEW POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL. THE UNDER SECRETARY INDICATED WE ARE STILL INTERESTED IN MAKING A

SERIOUS EFFORT AT UN RESTRUCTURING AND HOPE THE FRENCH WILL JOIN US IN THIS EFFORT. THE UNDER SECRETARY ALSO INDICATED THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING A NEW POSITION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL, WITHOUT MAKING ANY SPECIFIC COMMITMENT.

3. FRENCH DEPUTY PERMREP TO THE UN JACQUES LE COMPT CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES JUNE 29 AND DISCUSSED, INTER ALIA, THE RESTRUCTURING ISSUE CONCERNING THE VAN LAETHEM POSITION (REFTEL C).

4. ACCORDINGLY, RATHER THAN USING THE TALKING POINTS ATTACHED TO THE JUNE 21 MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY AS SUGGESTED IN REFTEL A, YOU SHOULD GUIDE YOUR COMMENTS TO RIPERT BY MAYNES' RESPONSE TO LE COMPT (PARA. 2-J OF REFTEL C) AND THE FOLLOWING REVISED TALKING POINTS.

5. TALKING POINTS:

A. A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF UN  
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ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING INTERNAL MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS, IS A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US:

-- PRESIDENT CARTER IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED IN FAVOR OF RESTRUCTURING AND REFORMING THE UN SYSTEM;

-- THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ARE SHOWING INCREASING SIGNS OF PERCEIVING INEFFECTIVENESS IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE UN SYSTEM;

B. SIGNS OF THE SAME PERCEPTION HAVE APPEARED IN THE THIRD WORLD ALSO. WE ANTICIPATE STEADILY INCREASING PRESSURES FROM THE THIRD WORLD FOR REFORM IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE UN FOR ECONOMIC ISSUES. CONSEQUENTLY, OUR INTEREST IN THIS AREA IS NOT ONLY RELATED TO OUR OWN CONCERN BUT WITH A NEED TO AVOID BEING THE PRISONER OF AGENDAS IMPOSED BY OTHERS.

C. WE SHARE MANY OF THE FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT CREATING THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL AND WANT TO HELP FRENCH PROTECT HIGH-LEVEL POSITION IN THE SECRETARIAT.

D. WE HOPE THAT JOINTLY WE CAN FIND A WAY TO ACCOMPLISH BOTH OF THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES AND WE APPRECIATE GREATLY THE FRENCH DECISION TO PROPOSE A CANDIDATE AS WELL QUALIFIED AS M. RIPERT FOR THE POSITION OF USYG FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

D. HOWEVER, THE ISSUE IS NOT JUST A PERSONALITY PROBLEM AND WE BELIEVE IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE G-77 COULD STILL IMPOSE THEIR DEMAND FOR A DIRECTOR GENERAL, WHICH COULD LARGELY REDUCE THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE POSITION FOR WHICH THE FRENCH PLAN TO PROPOSE M. RIPERT.

E. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE IDEA OF  
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ESTABLISHING A NEW POSITION OF FULL DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL TO ALLOW FOR THE REQUIRED INCREASED ATTENTION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL FOR UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND INTERNAL MANAGEMENT.

F. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH A NEW POSITION MIGHT SATISFY G-77 INTERESTS WHILE STILL PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE FRENCH POSITION AND, ALSO, THE AMERICAN POSITION AT THE HEAD OF THE UNDP. HOWEVER, WE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN ANY ALTERNATIVES THE FRENCH MAY HAVE TO OFFER. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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